Service authorities are also required to periodically inspect prisons to monitor that the directions given by the supreme Court are followed in letter and spirit.

CBI investigation regarding Goa International Film Festival, 2004

3433. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation is inquiring into the matters related to Goa International Film Festival, 2004 and related issues;

(b) whether the CBI has sought any documents from the State Government;

(c) if so, whether these documents have been received by the CBI;

(d) whether any person, including officials, have been interrogated or arrested in the matter; and

(e) what is the present legal and procedural status of inquiry/ investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a Preliminary Enquiry No.1 (A)/2006-Goa on 16.3.2006.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some documents have been received by the CBI.

(d) No person has either been interrogated or arrested. It is an enquiry and one person has been examined so far.

(e) The inquiry is in the preliminary stage.

Research regarding trafficking of women and children

†3434. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the research

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by Institute of Social Science regarding trafficking of women and children in India in which it has been stated that the practice of trafficking of women and children in India is continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the percentage of cases of trafficking of women and children in which reports are registered by the police; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government to check the practice of this trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Human Rights Commission, on collaboration with the UNIFEM and the Institute of Social Science, New Delhi conducted an Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India. On the findings of NHRC on this research being made available, the Union Government advised Governments of concerned States to evolve a holistic approach encompassing prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and also evolve a comprehensive strategy for effectively dealing with the problem. The need to sensitize and train police officials at all levels was emphasized and the State Governments advised that the police be asked to immediately carry out special drives in the most vulnerable areas.

(c) Every information relating to the commission of a congnizable offence if given to police is required to be registered as per Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(d) Even though 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the seventh schedule to the Constitution, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the State Governments giving more focused attention to the prevention and control of crimes within their jurisdiction with special emphasis on prevention of crime against vulnerable sections of the society, including women and children. Besides issuing advisories, from time to time, to State Governments to take concerted efforts to check crime against women, Ministry of Home Affairs, has taken following specific measures to check trafficking in human beings:

(i) A Working Group on Cross-Border Trafficking in Women and Children was constituted to study various aspects of cross border

trafficking. The Working Group's recommendations have been circulated to the State Governments for appropriate action.

(ii) A National Seminar on prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings was organized in October, 2005 in association with National Human Rights Commission and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with a view to generate awareness and sensitize the law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to the problem. The recommendations emerging during the seminar have been sent to all the State Governments/U.T. Administrations and other concerned agencies to enable them to evolve appropriate strategies for preventing and combating the crime.

(iii) Bureau of Police Research & Development has conducted several workshops and seminars in the States with a view to sensitize law enforcement agencies in combating trafficking in women and children.

(iv) A two year project on strengthening the law enforcement response against trafficking in persons through training and capacity building has been taken up as a joint initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNODC. The project aims at raising the awareness of law enforcement officers on the problem of human trafficking and further building up their capacity to better investigate and prosecute offenders perpetrating this crime.

Besides above, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) is in the process of amending the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) to make it more stringent for traffickers and minimize re-victimisation of the victims. They have also drawn up a National Plan of Action and constituted a Central Advisory Committee, chaired by the Secretary, MWCD, to combat trafficking; rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking, and activate legal and law enforcement systems to strengthen implementation of ITPA. Guidelines have been issued to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action which is regularly reviewed. MWCD, along with the National Commission for women and other agencies, has been conducting active advocacy against trafficking in partnership with NGOs.